

PACAM NEWSLETTER

PACAM Launches Cycle 2 Projects

It is officially all systems go for four projects under Cycle 2 grants awarded by the Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM). The projects are implemented by World Wide Fund for Nature-Pacific in Fiji; Adventist Development and Relief Agency and Internews-Earth Journalism Network in Samoa; and lastly, Institute for Sustainable Futures - University of Technology, Sydney in Kiribati. (See related stories on pages 2 and 4.)

Two more projects — awarded to ChildFund Papua New Guinea and CARE International in Vanuatu — will be launched in early 2016.

During Cycle 2 grant implementation, PACAM awarded six grants totalling US\$ 2.3 million in five countries across the Pacific: Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Vanuatu.

To date, PACAM has awarded 15 grants, including nine from Cycle 1.

Cycle 3 Grants Awards

PACAM's third and final grants cycle,



Filipe Raturaga (right) explains to U.S. Ambassador to Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, and Tuvalu Judith Cefkin (left) and WWF - Pacific Representative Kesaia Tabunakawai the use of coir log as substrate for plants and as reinforcement of river banks and coastal areas. Taken at the USAID PACAM - WWF-Pacific project launch on October 21 in Suva. Photo © PACAM

launched on June 26, 2015, generated 130 concept papers from organizations based in the Pacific countries; out of these, 29 applications were invited to submit full applications, and 27 organizations pursued their applications.

These applications were reviewed and ranked by a panel of experts on the Grants Review Committee and Grants Review Board, respectively. Successful applicants will enter the pre-award assessment phase.



A member of the Katazo honeybee farmers' network in Sasamunga Village, South Choiseul, Solomon Islands harvests honey. Photo © NRDF

HONEYBEE FARMING PAYS OFF

"Turn your backyard into a golden spring" proclaims the slogan of honey bee farmers of Sasamunga Village in Choiseul Province of the Solomon Islands. That appears to be exactly what they are doing as 28 farmers (13 male, 15 female) on this island have earned over US\$3,200 collectively. "I am very happy to work with NRDF with beekeeping as I am now able to build my own house with money raised from my honey sales," said Jacob Magnini, from Rarakisi Village, Chosieul. This livelihood project was initiated by the Natural Resources Development Foundation (NRDF) with USAID-PACAM's support. The project encourages communities to conserve and manage their forest resources by supporting them with alternative income-generating activities. NRDF is providing starter bee colonies, training, and technical support to get hives up and running. This project also receives support from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock which will facilitate marketing opportunities. ♦

Cycle 2 Projects Launched

Managing Threatened Ecosystems

Suva, Fiji — On October 21, USAID's Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM) and World Wide Fund for Nature-Pacific (WWF-Pacific) launched a project to increase climate resilience through improved management of threatened ecosystems and the services they provide for the communities in Ba Province of Fiji.

Through USAID's grant of US\$488,237, WWF-Pacific will work with communities and the government to develop 20-year Sustainable Development Plans for each community that advance Fiji's Green Growth Framework and National Climate Change Policy; teach sustainable farming techniques to communities; and increase public awareness of the impact of climate change and the need to protect rivers and streams.

At the ceremony, the U.S. Ambassador to Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, and Tuvalu Judith B. Cefkin, said, "I am proud to say that the initiative we are launching today builds upon our strong ties as we work together ensuring climate-resilient growth for the Fijians."

Enhancing Communities' Climate Resilience

Apia, Samoa — On December 11, USAID's Pacific American Climate Fund and grantees Adventist Development and Relief Agency Samoa (ADRA) and the Internews - Earth Journalism Network



U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa Mark Gilbert presents certificates of award to ADRA Samoa and Internews. (Left photo) Ambassador Gilbert, ADRA Samoa Country Director Julia Wallwork, and ADRA International President Jonathan Duffy. (Right photo) Ambassador Gilbert, Internews' Lead Journalism Trainer Cherelle Jackson and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Program Secretary-General David Sheppard. Photos © PACAM

(Internews) launched a project that will work to reduce vulnerabilities of communities to climate change impacts.

ADRA received a US\$509,933 grant



A disaster response drill in the Samoan village of Faleseela kicked off ADRA's disaster risk management project. Photo © PACAM

from USAID to enhance disaster risk management and preparedness activities and also to enhance and diversify livelihoods in Upolu and Savaii Islands

of Samoa.

Meanwhile, the Internews-Earth Journalism Network received a grant of US\$100,000 to help improve the skills and knowledge of local media in Fiji, Samoa, and Vanuatu in reporting stories on climate change impacts.

At the ceremony, U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa Mark Gilbert expressed the American people's commitment to the well-being of the people of the Pacific Islands. "I am happy to see the partnerships forged today and the commitment to building climate resiliency in Fiji, Samoa, and Vanuatu communities. President Obama has called this century the Pacific Century, and under his leadership the United States is building on its long relationship with the region," Ambassador Gilbert said. ♦



Work starts on developing a farm that will demonstrate climate-resilient farming methods in Fiji under the PACAM-funded project. Photo © WWF-PPO

OFF TO A GOOD START

Following the launch of the PACAM-funded project "Strengthening Governance and Resource Management", WWF-Pacific brought together key stakeholders for a planning workshop in Lautoka, Fiji in December 2015. With impending climate stressors such as changes in rainfall and greater frequency of extreme events like cyclones and flooding, Fiji, particularly districts in Ba Province, face increased vulnerability to the impacts of climate change because of deterioration of food resource habitats, physical damage to crops, reduced food security, poor nutrition, and access. The project aims to restore, protect, and sustainably manage threatened ecosystems in the Nailaga and Nacula Districts in Ba Province, adopting an integrated, holistic approach to these vulnerabilities brought by the changing climate.

IN ACTION | Project Updates from the Islands



Samoaan “Pathbreakers” to Spread Word on Sustainable Agriculture

Increased and extreme rainfall events have been negatively affecting crop production in Samoa. Responding to this need, PACAM-supported Matuaileoo Environment Trust, Inc. (METI) trained 25 villagers to become multi-disciplinary community workers (known as *taiala*, or “pathbreaker” in Samoan) who will share with communities knowledge and practices on sustainable agriculture. Successful graduates received certificates after undergoing a six-week Train the Trainer course in Lalovaea, Apia. During the training’s closing ceremony, U.S. Embassy Chargé d’Affaires Angelina Wilkinson congratulated METI on its efforts in successfully undertaking this important project. “USAID and METI have partnered to develop livelihoods and self-reliance for communities in Samoa to combat the drastic impact of a changing climate. It is a privilege to be able to support this program and I look forward to its continued success as the project progresses,” she said.



Top photo: Graduates of Train the Trainers course. Photo at left: Mr. Lauano Semau Lakopo, Sustainable Development Officer, receiving his certificate from Dr. Walter Vermeulen of METI (left) and Chargé d’Affaires, Ms. Angelina Wilkinson. Photo © METI

Commercially Valuable Fish Grown in the Open Ocean Cages in Majuro Lagoon, Marshall Islands



Left photo: Transfer of fingerlings in process. Right photo: An underwater shot showing the fingerlings transferred into the ocean cage. Photos © ATMI



After successfully hatching fish from on-shore nurseries and then growing them in open ocean cages, an additional 31,050 fingerlings of commercially valuable fish, known locally as *moi* (*Polydactylus sexfilis*), were transferred recently to larger “homes” in the Majuro Atoll lagoon, Republic of the Marshall Islands. Upon the release of the juvenile *moi* into the open cages, ATMI will continue the production of fish feed made from bycatch and locally-grown cassava to reduce the reliance on imported feed. The *moi* will be ready for harvest in April 2016. The use of the technology by the Aquaculture Technologies of the Marshall Islands (ATMI) was supported by a grant from USAID’s Pacific-American Climate Fund to help provide Marshallese people with livelihoods that adapt to the impacts of climate change.

ATMI is working to establish alternative, climate-adaptive livelihoods for fishing communities on the island atoll of Majuro, and is scheduled to start soon on Rongelap as well. The project will manufacture cost-efficient local fish feed to boost local aquaculture; expand fish production through grow-out in open ocean cages, in order to improve food security; and train the local workforce to establish small aquaculture farms and enhance their livelihoods. Currently, farmers rely heavily on expensive, imported agricultural inputs. The PACAM-funded project will work through a network of small and mid-sized farms and utilize local agricultural products and fish by-products to produce the economical feed for agriculture and aquaculture.

IN ACTION: Project Updates from the Islands



Outreach mission in Tubetube, Milne Bay, to introduce storytelling tools. Photo © CI

Capturing Climate Stories in Milne Bay, PNG

Conservation International (CI) recently introduced an easy-to-use community guide on climate change storytelling. Together with partner communities in Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea, CI will make videos documenting the communities' own stories about climate change. The activity was met with enthusiastic support in schools and communities. CI distributed audio-visual equipment and trained communities on how to produce videos. CI has found that if people collect their own stories and evaluate their own situation in terms of resource management, the impact is more powerful than general awareness messages. ♦



Agriculture training in Nissan District, PNG. Photo © CARE PNG

Enhancing Climate-Resilient Agriculture in Nissan District, PNG

CARE Papua New Guinea (PNG) held a capacity-building training and shared with communities best practices in raised bed farming; crop rotation; and artificial gardening (using mangrove mud as soil). Communities also learned about fallowing, composting, and pest control, with a particular focus on using indigenous materials such as pig and chicken manure, weeds, and other materials found in abundance in the communities and mostly regarded as trash. ♦



A women's group representative joined the fishers' workshop. Photo © MERIP

Mobilizing Fishers in Pohnpei, Micronesia

Fishing communities in Pehling Village, Pohnpei, Micronesia gathered to discuss inshore fisheries management and other climate change adaptation measures. The meeting, facilitated by the Marine and Environmental Research Institute of Pohnpei (MERIP), also stressed the importance of preparing communities to shift to sustainable livelihoods other than fishing. This shift would reduce pressure on marine resources so that fisheries can thrive amidst the impacts of the changing climate. MERIP's work aims to support small-scale aquaculture ventures and fishery management capacity building for communities in Micronesia. ♦



Learning to analyze water supply options. Photo © PACAM

Adapting to Water Shortages in Kiribati

The Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology, Sydney and the Kiribati Climate Action Network held a two-day training of trainers with community facilitators involved in water supply and adaptation planning. The workshop taught the local facilitators to undertake an analysis of viable drinking water supply options, which then allows communities to better understand the impacts of climate change on their water supply and to decide when a new water source should be utilized. ♦

Q & A

PACAM Regional Manager Junne Cosmas' conversation with Wilko Bosma, Team Leader of the Natural Resources Development Foundation (NRDF) in Solomon Islands

Junne: How do you mobilize the communities to welcome and participate in your project?

Wilko: In most cases, NRDF is invited to come and conduct an awareness program, usually a one-day, one-night activity. After the awareness activity, the community and NRDF decide whether a partnership is wanted or applicable. It depends on the interest of the people and their commitment towards sustainability, logging threats, and availability of significant land and forest resources.

Junne: What changes does NRDF hope to see in the communities in terms of sustainable development?

Wilko: NRDF would like to see partner communities running enough family projects to sustain the family's financial needs without exploiting their resources unsustainably. Communities should reach a status where they have a healthy and strong social, economic, and environmental foundation. It's also hoped that due to empowerment activities, women are taking a leading role in this development.

Junne: Please describe how the PACAM grant will help move the communities towards sustainable forest development.

Wilko: Communities are encouraged to conserve and manage their forest resources by supporting them with income generating activities. Although environmental, cultural, and social benefits of forests are essential and are addressed as well, income and employment are strong drivers which logging companies use to lobby for their approach to "development." Therefore NRDF uses income and employment in its program as "proxy" for sustainable development to convince people to choose this path. The project supports communities in timber harvesting and



Members of the local women's saving club harvesting honey. Photo © NRDF

Forest Stewardship Council registration, livelihoods such as honeybee farming, and forest conservation for carbon incentives or REDD* purchases and tourism.

Junne: How does [activities like] honeybee farming contribute to sustainable forest development? How does it help farmers adapt to climate change?

Wilko: There is a general knowledge and claim that healthy forests protect people from climate extremes such as floods and landslides. We already see that now. We see that logged forest areas are more affected by El Niño drought than the unlogged areas due to dried up streams and rivers. Again, income generation is a way to commit people to keep their forest intact and healthy, to be more resilient and to protect against impacts of climate change. Our experience is that the "income message" is stronger than the "climate change warning message." That is why the draw of unsustainable logging is so strong.

Technically, honey farming does not directly link to sustainable forest management. However, it is our experience that honeybee farms do better in a forest resource rich environment. The program supports honeybee farmers in

communities that support sustainable forest management and forest conservation, giving the people an alternative for not choosing large scale activities such as logging and mining that endanger the environment and livelihoods.

Junne: Organizing savings clubs is also a part of the activities under the PACAM grant. How do you mobilize people to participate in the savings club?

Wilko: Women are introduced to the concept of savings clubs usually during the awareness sessions. If they express interest, NRDF schedules a workshop to train and help the women to set up the club. After that, NRDF will continue with coaching and monitoring the clubs. NRDF wants to make sure that money made from its activities is spent wisely. We can claim that due to the interventions more cash is flowing into communities, but with the women's saving clubs we also have more insight on how this money is spent or how and what it is used for.

Junne: What do participants see as the benefit of the women's savings club?

Wilko: Savings clubs secure money for times in need, such as school fees. Women have more "power" to decide on how family money is spent. Savings clubs also offer opportunities to lend

SPOTLIGHT: Partners' Profile

Q & A continued from page 5...

small loans. We know from experience that women are better financial managers than men. They are also much more committed towards forest management and conservation. They link a healthy forest with their livelihoods rather than [see] the forest as a fast cash earner. In our interviews, men recognize the savings club as beneficial for both men and women. The men are very supportive.

Junne: What have been communities' reactions to what they have learned through NRDF's interventions?

Wilko: Reactions are always positive but the main turning point is when the community members experience the benefits of the activities. Once honeybee farmers sold honey and earned, they realized that the projects were truly beneficial. The same can be said for timber producers finding out the real value of trees. [This is also the case] when women's savings club members experience their club's benefits. Sometimes it takes some time to reach this point and the trick is to keep people motivated and committed.

Junne: Please describe successes in your program implementation so far.

Wilko: NRDF is a small organization

with a very important task and good position among key stakeholders. NRDF has built up partnerships with nine communities protecting a forest area of more than 25,000 hectares of natural forest and more communities are interested to join. The organization has managed to make REDD measures a practical community-based activity. More women are involved in the overall program by introducing and supporting activities such as honeybee farming and savings clubs. Women have become more active and play a substantial role in the program. This is also acknowledged and supported by the men in the community, which has contributed to greater gender equality. In the end, we want to create a better life for all people in the Solomon Islands by using the successful models created by the program. Focus on large-scale solutions too often forgets the very people whose lives are dependent on forests. NRDF wants to make a change even while realizing the limited position it has. As they say, "a single grain of rice can tip the scale."♦

*Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) is an effort to create a financial value for the carbon stored in forests, offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development.



USAID Office of Environment, Energy and Climate Change Director Jeremy Gustafson (seated, center) visited PACAM Project Management Office at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila on October 14, 2015. Seated are (left) Sharon Gulick, Environment Officer, USAID Pacific Islands; and, (right) Peter Collier, Chief of Party, PACAM. Behind them are (L-R) Rhowena Roxas, Dineth Larsen, Grace Batario, Payton Deeks, William Jatulan, and Joanna Arroyo. Photo © PACAM

ABOUT THE FUND

The Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM), is a grant-making facility funded by the U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and administered by Partners for Global Research and Development, LLC (PGRD) that assists 12 Pacific Island countries to reduce long-term vulnerabilities associated with climate change. PACAM awards grants to civil society organizations in support of climate change adaptation measures and related "co-benefits", such as livelihoods enhancement, improved health, food security, disaster risk reduction, or sustainable natural resources management.

In addition to building climate resiliency, the Pacific-American Climate Fund, through the awarded grants, will assist in strengthening the managerial and financial capacity of civil society organizations. The countries in which PACAM operates are: Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

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